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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 79 p 2

[Article by Engr-Maj O. Bobrakov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, in the column "People in Soviet Science": "A Formula for Life"]

[Text] People in Soviet science...

These are the people who are waging the assault on space and penetrating the secrets of the microscopic world; they are building the unique equipment of the 20th Century, developing new types of plants and breeding unusual animals; they are creating new substances and plumbing the depths of the centuries. These are the people who are building new roads to the heights of knowledge on behalf of mankind's progress and happiness. Our story is about one of them--Engr-MajGen Ivan Lyudvigovich Knunyants, Academician, Hero of Socialist Labor and winner of the Lenin and USSR State Prizes.

What is chemistry? D. I. Mendeleev called it the "study of the elements." Academician I. L. Knunyants believes it is a world of great transformations and he writes down a formula to prove it:

"Right now, this is simply an ethyl-chloride group. Let's add several signs. Now, it is death. Mustard gas! And now? (the chalk taps across the board. Other signs appear in place of the ones he had just written). Now, it is life, an anti-cancer drug..."

The general takes in the audience with his attentive, slightly squinted eyes. He is talking slowly, dropping his voice to a half whisper, and suddenly--there is an outburst. Energetic gestures, exclamations. His face lights up: "Listen! this is very important!"

No, he did not say these words. But, the audience is devoting all its attention to him. This is how it has always been, the entire 45 years that he has been lecturing at the Military Chemical Defense Academy imeni Mar SU S. K. Timoshenko. Although his first students had "spinning tops" on their shoulder patches and no stars on their shoulder boards and although today's students are better educated, the experienced teacher has invariably seen a thirst for knowledge and a love of chemistry in both.

He taught them. He taught them to feel the rigorous logic of chemical changes; he instilled an interest in experimentation in them and revealed the poetic nature of the scientific search. Most of all, he wanted all of them to firmly master one thing: chemistry--the great changes, man's power over nature. Like every powerful force, it could bring both good and evil.

Good and evil... He understood the meaning of the words a lot sooner than he learned to write them. Good--this was his old grandmother, proud and strict; it was his mother's tender hands; it was the people in the white smocks at the Baku Hospital where his mother worked, people who were eternally rushing around and who were extremely tired but always concerned and restrained. (Later, he found out that the young orderly, Sergo Ordzhonikidze, was among them). Finally, it was those rare evenings when the Knunyants family was gathered together.

During those years, the young boy seldom saw his father and mother. He probably talked with them less frequently than the officers from the police station did. His mother was at the hospital from morning to late at night. His father, chairman of the Baku Strike Committee, spent the greater part of his time in prison. The police frequently showed up at their house, banging their hobnail boots and rattling their swords. They knocked over the furniture and books flew to the floor. The "evil" was nervous; it was looking for something, it was threatening...

Once, his mother came home earlier than usual; she took Ivan by the hand: "Come with me son; we're going to see Uncle Bogdan; but, don't tell anybody where you went...." Many years later, their names would turn up side by side in the Grand Soviet Encyclopedia--Academician Ivan Lyudvigovich Knunyants and Bogdan Mirzadzhannovich Knunyants, professional revolutionary, active member of the Petersburg "Alliance for the Struggle to Liberate the Working Class" since 1897, a delegate to the second Congress of the RSDWP [Russian Social Democratic Workers Party], member of the first Petersburg Council of Bol'shevik Workers Deputies and Vladimir Il'ich Lenin's comrade in arms. This was their first and last meeting.

Having escaped from exile, Bogdan Knunyants (also known as Ruben, Radin, Rusov) was arrested shortly afterwards and died in the Baku Prison. His brothers Lyudvig and Tigran and his sister Fara Knunyants--a participant in the three revolutions and a party member from 1903--continued his work. On 23 June 1941, I. L. Knunyants submitted a statement and a request that he be considered a communist.

"Atabrine." Packages with this inscription and with a secret classification were kept in the safes of German chemical companies. At that time, this "weapon" against malaria not only promised a great deal of income but it had also acquired strategic importance...

The young teacher Ivan Knunyants was interested in looking for an effective remedy for this serious disease. Officially, nobody made it mandatory for him to work with medicines. His primary specialty was petroleum chemistry and technology. But, Knunyants knew: the medicine was extremely necessary and he believed that he could make it. He continued to work on this after he became a lecturer at the Military Chemical Defense Academy. The result--the widely known quinocrine hydrochloride was put into production. He had brilliantly accomplished his mission. Suffice it to say that one of the new basic agents for producing quinocrine hydrochloride (it is called Knunyants lactone) is still being used on a widespread basis in the world chemical and pharmaceutical industry to synthesize vitamin B₁.

Great changes... The monstrous product of the I. G. Farbin Industries occupied an important place in the arsenals of fascist Germany and, when the raving Fuhrer gave birth to his plans for the mass extermination of people, his hand reached for the valves on the cylinders with the deadly gas...

How many nights did Ivan Lyudvigovich spend in his laboratory? He didn't count them. None of his colleagues counted them either. A search was underway. A search where the most important thing was to reach the goal. And do it as quickly as possible. Knunyants was developing antidotes (neutralizers) for the fascist toxic agents.

An experiment, another one, another... A tenth, a hundredth...

In 1943, the group of scientists led by I. L. Knunyants was awarded the State Prize "for developing a new medicine." It is now possible to reveal that it was an antidote for hydrocyanic acid. The servicemen had ampules of the new medicine in their field kits.

The war continued. Old medicines were being improved and new ones were being developed. The Chemical Defense Academy provided reinforcements for the army with its graduates on an annual basis. Professor Knunyants was fighting all these years on several fronts as they used to say. He remembers a conversation with the Institute for Artificial Fibers. "We need cheap, strong materials. Could you set up nylon production?" Knunyants did not answer immediately. He thought it over (just what was behind these words!) for ten days. Then, he stated: "I will not make nylon. It is necessary to make a caprolactam polymer."

His words were met with surprise. After all, Caruthers (a well-known American chemist--the inventor of nylon) himself had asserted that it was impossible to make a caprolactam polymer.

"Yes, but he also admitted something else: if this polymer could be made, the material would be as good as and possibly better than nylon," Ivan Lyudvigovich countered.

The theoretician Knunyants did his job. And as always, he did it brilliantly. Usually, the research materials were transmitted to the technicians. But, this time Ivan Lyudvigovich was not able "to part" with his brainchild; so, the corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences set about developing the production cycle himself so that he could quickly see how the process was proceeding in an industrial reaction vessel and not in a laboratory setting.

The year is 1950... Engr-MajGen Knunyants was awarded the USSR State Prize (his third) "for developing a new artificial fiber and putting it into production." It is not necessary to say a lot about this fiber. Parachutes, clothing, machine parts...are made from capron.

Perhaps, Academician Knunyants's primary service to science was setting up the world-reknown organofluoric school. Fluorine is the most active chemical element. The effort it took for Ivan Lyudvigovich and his students to subdue this "aggressive" element! Everything happened: explosions, burns, poisonings. He does not like to recall this. He says tersely: "We developed many theoretical concepts for fluorine chemistry." That simple! Cold-resistant rubber, heat-resistant glass, powerful anesthetics (analgesics) and much, much more have resulted from fluorine chemistry. It is not by accident that the achievements of the "Knunyants' School" are known far beyond the borders of our country.

The breadth of Academician Knunyants' interests might seem strange in our age of "narrow specialization." Judge for yourself: quinocrine hydrochloride and capron, organofluorines and new surfactants for chrome plating--the latter have saved the country approximately 30 percent of the chrome it uses... About 200 inventions and discoveries, 900 published works, hundreds of graduates from the Chemical Defense Academy--there are professors and academicians among the latter. Fifty years of selfless labor for the good of the people; fifty years of service in its Armed Forces. And he is still working, including work on anti-cancer drugs. Drugs like "hexophosphamide" and "lofenal" have prolonged many peoples' lives.

He is a chemist. For this reason, he has worked with formulas for his entire life. This scientist and communist always sees something more behind the indifferent signs. In various hands, they can bring Good and Evil, Life and Death. With the power of his great changes, Knunyants is destroying the "formulas of death," thereby confirming good; he is devoting his all to this without rest.

This is the formula for his life.

9001

CSO: 1801

COMMAND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG OFFICERS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 79 p 2

[Article by Guards Maj S. Terent'yev in the column "The Making of a Commander": "A Year of Trials"]

[Text] Dear Editors:

I seldom see any material in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about the difficult period of becoming a commander. As a rule, the discussions are about lieutenants and graduates of military schools.

At the same time, I am firmly convinced that an officer encounters certain difficulties after his graduation from a military academy. What are these difficulties like? How are they handled? I would like the newspaper to treat this topic.

Maj. V. Ivanov, student, Armored Forces Military Academy
imeni Mar SU R. Ya. Malinovskiy

In response to this request, we are publishing Guards Maj. Terent'yev's article today; it touches upon several of the issues in the command development of a graduate of the military academy.

After I finished the military academy, I was assigned as the commanding officer of an air defense missile battalion. Here is my first conversation with Guards LtCol O. Fitkulin, the regimental commander. He asked me detailed questions about my studies and was interested in where I had served previously; he also asked several questions about my specialty training.

"So, you completed your studies successfully," the Guards lieutenant colonel said thoughtfully.

"I am afraid that they are still not completed," I blurted out.

"It's good that you think that. Always be bold in getting down to brass tacks. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. Ask the communists for advice frequently."

I took over a battalion which was known for its superior results in combat training. Based on the unit commander's advice, I began getting acquainted with the officers. The overwhelming majority of them were highly trained specialists and experienced teachers. I immediately felt that they were making every effort to help me. Moreover, they were doing it tactfully and unobtrusively.

Once, I was harsh in a conversation with Guards SrLt A. Bogatyrev; it seemed to me that he had superficially checked his combat equipment. Later, I accidentally overheard a conversation between him and Guards Maj Yu. Tyupa:

"I did not expect this kind of attitude toward work from you. After all, you put everybody on a spot and not just yourself..."

"It won't happen again," the officer assured him, blushing.

And he kept his word. I also drew the appropriate conclusions for myself from this: never fly off the handle. It is necessary to talk to people as Yuriy Grigor'yevich did.

I must admit that at first I thought the most difficulty would arise in setting up exercises and training sessions on the combat equipment. But, I soon became convinced that the crew was well organized.

However, I did encounter difficulties from another direction. I found out that running the unit administration and services was far from being the simple job I thought it was. How should materiel be properly distributed? What are the materials input norms for repairing the facilities? How can we ensure timely repair of our personnel's uniforms and shoes? How can the menu in the EM dining hall be diversified?

The job was complicated even more by the fact that Guards WO V. Anikin was assigned to the first sergeant's billet. He did not have very much experience and I could not teach him very much. I went to the unit commander for his advice.

After listening to me, he smiled and said, "This is something we can fix up. Here is a list of orders and directives which you should study. And here are the notes I made when I commanded a battalion. I think you will find some useful things in this too."

We talked for a long time that evening. Guards LtCol Fitkulin not only shared his "secrets" with me, he asked a lot of detailed questions about my job and about interpersonal relations within the collective. He made a lot of useful suggestions that evening.

Things gradually improved with the administrative problems. In addition, I was developing a lively interest in them. Of course, as before, the unit's combat readiness and the officers', NCO's and EM's level of training were still the first order of business. But, along with this, I began to think about something else more and more frequently: what else could be done to improve order in the barracks? How could the EM club be made comfortable? I wanted complete and constant "combat readiness" there.

Yes, based on my own experience, I became convinced that not just lieutenants need assistance and support from senior, more experienced officers. But, I also understood something else: you can't wait until someone comes and shows you or tells you what and how things must be done in a particular situation. After all, it is not in vain that the proverb says a rolling stone gathers no moss.

Once, the headquarters officers were inspecting the status of the battalion's combat equipment. Guards Engr-LtCol N. Tkachenko, who headed the group, made a number of observations.

I expressed my doubts, "I'm afraid that we won't be able to handle them with our own manpower by the deadline. The people are loaded down..."

The engineer lieutenant colonel did not say anything to me but his look made it immediately clear: he did not intend to conduct any further conversation on this subject.

I spent almost the entire night in deep, intense meditation. At times, I had the urge to go see Guards LtCol Fitkulin in the morning. Perhaps he would be able to help somehow. But, I immediately dismissed this idea. Actually, I still had not done anything myself in looking for an optimal solution. What kind of commander am I if I am just going to count on my superior's assistance and support in every tight spot?

The next day, I assembled the officers to discuss the best way to accomplish our assigned mission. Guards Maj A. Vdovichenko, my deputy and one of the regiment's most experienced missilemen, made the first suggestion:

"I think that we will have to thoroughly prepare the materiel and tools the evening before."

Another officer gave his opinion, "It would be advisable to change the assignment of specialists a little."

We developed a specific plan for the forthcoming work at this meeting. And we were able to implement it in a superior manner. In short, precisely at the designated time, I reported to Guards Engr-LtCol Tkachenko that the assigned mission was accomplished. The follow-up inspection showed that the status of the division's equipment had improved.

Frankly, the first year of my troop assignment after completing the military academy was a year of serious trials for me. However, I learned a lot during that time. It increased my confidence in my own competence and it strengthened my desire to gain a better mastery of command and teaching skills.

We adopted high socialist pledges for the winter training period. Now, it is coming to an end. What will the results be? We have done a lot to reconfirm our title as an outstanding battalion. But, I feel that we still have isolated cases of unfinished work. This makes it mandatory for all of us, and especially for me as the commander, to work even harder during the final phase of winter training.

So, my year of trials is still not over. And, evidently, subsequent years will also be years of trials. Just as it is for any graduate of the military academy.

9001

CSO: 1801

COMMAND TRAINING OF TANK REGIMENT OFFICERS DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 79 p 2

[Article by LtCol A. Zakharenko and Maj G. Miranovich, Red Banner Belorussian Military District: "The Officers' Phase Lines: Notes on Command Training"]

[Text] The winter training period is coming to an end. To a great extent, its results will be determined by the level of the officers' command training and, specifically, by how completely the proven principle of the unity of tactical and technical training has been employed in their training. What sort of experience has been accumulated in this and what are the problems which require solutions--our correspondents from the Red Banner Tank Regiment imeni Lenin's Komsomol have devoted their notes to these issues.

The breathe of the range can be felt from afar: neither the buildings, the vehicles nor the people are visible yet but you can already see the fir trees along the road shaking from the shell bursts and you can smell the discharged gases and powder suddenly mixed into the air's coniferous infusion.

The tank training area is one of the range's primary training facilities. The company commanded by Lt Yu. Susikov is working here. The crews are already in place.

While the engines are revving up, we climb up to the tower where the command post for the tank training area has been set up. It is not very high--the lieutenant in the lead negotiates the iron staircase in three steps--but, how far you can see from here!.. While looking at the menacing combat vehicles which personify the country's industrial might--forged by the labor of the Soviet people--all of our great fatherland visibly passes in front of you.

It has not spared any effort for its defenders. Of course, everybody at this training site--a site hidden in the Belorussian woods--feels his personal responsibility to the people for the combat readiness of his own regiment and of the Armed Forces.

The command post is equipped with the necessary command and control facilities. The availability of communications with the crews gives the exercise director the opportunity to intercede in their operations at any time: to give them a tactical problem or to require them, if necessary, to repeat an operation. The trainees' mistakes are recorded on special company training cards which account for firing, driving and tank gunnery; this makes it possible for the commander to evaluate the competition more objectively and to organize individual work with personnel.

The tank driven by Lt Susikov is heading for an obstacle.

The officer's example... It has been well known for a long time: in training as in combat, he rallies personnel and inspires them to overcome difficulties. Even for the short time that we have immersed ourselves in the turbulent whirlpool of regimental life, we have sensed his great mobilizing power.

Everywhere where drills and training sessions were being held on the equipment, the tankers were accompanied by the motto "Every Komsomol Member--Be an Outstanding Specialist and an Example in Mastering Equipment and Weapons!". He aggressively "worked" on the quality of the training process. And here is what is noteworthy: while preparing for the exercises, many of the NCO's and EM adopted pledges to fire or drive their vehicles just like Lt V. Ivanovskiy.

Lt Valeriy Ivanovskiy is the secretary of the regiment's Komsomol committee. Naturally, he took part in developing the slogan. However, this is not the secret of the officer's popularity. Before issuing the challenge, the young communist proved in action that he can serve as an example. A graduate of the combined arms school, he has mastered the new equipment to a tee during the year.

Lt Yuriy Susikov is just as well known in the regiment. For two years, he commanded an outstanding platoon; during his third year, he took over an outstanding company from Capt V. Shchekotov, a company which, in the words of the political officer, Maj V. Lagunov, not only did not surrender its conquered positions but also consolidated its leading position. At present, over 70 percent of the company's personnel are first and second class specialists. The commander also raises his class rating each year.

We are not saying this to insult the other officers, but as specialists, only a few of them are this well known even within their own battalions. As the saying goes, they only have themselves to blame. During the tank gunnery training in one of the companies, we saw Lt V. Dolgirev trying to coordinate the actions of the crew led by Sgt V. Yarovenko when they were loading ammunition. No matter how many times the lieutenant coached his subordinates, for some reason, things still did not turn out well for one of them. An actual demonstration by the officer, based on the principle "do as I do," would have been very appropriate here. But, the platoon leader did not resort to this.

We also had occasion to see other officers who were not able to set an example for their subordinates. This is all the more reason why Lt Susikov's work style merits attention. This is a typical trait: as long as we were in the regiment, there was not a single case where he missed an opportunity to accomplish what he was teaching the others first.

It is well known that tactics is the key discipline in the command training system. It cannot be said that this is not felt within the regiment. The unit headquarters conducts a lot of measures in the interest of tactical training. However, there are some omissions.

Not long before the company tactical exercises began, lessons were being conducted with the platoon leaders in the unit. Capt A. Dmitriyev, the battalion executive officer, was conducting one of them. It was anticipated that he would use this opportunity to give the young officers a little more information on how to employ their equipment more effectively in a particular tactical environment. The XO acted differently: he "lent" the trainees his notebook for awhile and they immediately, in good conscience, copied everything out of it that was connected with the forthcoming exercises. There was not even any discussion about equipment utilization.

The problems of the quality of command training are discussed at the party organizations on a systematic basis--the documents attest to this. We thought that the communists would have given this case a principled evaluation. However, not a word was even heard about it, not at the regimental headquarters nor at the party committee. Of course, this cannot be explained away by any sort of objective reasons. There is an obvious discrepancy here between words and deeds. And, they know very well what this leads to in the unit.

...The exercise was coming to an end. The tankers, who were fairly exhausted from their previous skirmishes with an aggressive "enemy," were assaulting the next river line, hoping that it would be the last and that somewhere on the opposite bank the standdown would

be announced. However, the advance elements had still not completed the forced crossing when the order arrived: one of the battalions would conduct a tactical exercise with live firing.

Firing is firing. It leaves its mark on the troops' operations and on their command and control by the fact that it precludes prearranged actions which slip in when there is no firing. The cost of every mistake also increases during these exercises. At this point, a tactical error was committed at the very outset. Instead of using the tanks' high speed characteristics to carry out a maneuver and to reduce their combat formations' vulnerability to "enemy" fire, several commanders continued a head-on attack. The exercise director was forced to repeatedly "slow down" the elements which were breaking away from adjacent elements and their attached and supporting resources. While advancing without reinforcements, the company commanded by SrLt L. Avgustinovich came directly under "enemy" fire.

This was a direct result of the fact that the regiment had still not achieved a situation where the officers' professional training was an implicit fusion of technical and tactical skill. The party committee and the communists of the headquarters party organization headed by Maj I. Tarasevich have something to think about here. Specifically, about how to help the commander organize competition between officers at the level required for better equipment employment and how to help him promote advanced techniques.

There is an enormous field of activity here. There are a lot of creative and inventive people among the young officers. Of course, nobody is setting up any obstacles for them. As the saying goes, everybody is four-square behind a situation where each exercise on equipment and the tactics for employing it is filled with a spirit of creativity and resembles an experiment. However, this does not actually happen very often and valuable initiatives do not even receive widespread publicity at times.

For example, it is well known how difficult it is at times to solve the problem of combat teamwork on a company-scale. It must be admitted that some units are dragging out this process for indefinite periods of time, a process whose time is generally regulated; in the end, this leads to rush jobs, sporadic efforts and piled up work. But, Lt Susikov accomplishes this mission within a reduced time frame. He achieves this by skillfully organizing the tank gunnery training sessions. But, here is the picture which emerges. Some officers conduct the training sessions using the old methods without taking into account the increased capabilities of the equipment, weapons and training facilities. Others "reach" the level of the people using the best methods, as the saying goes,

by using the trial and error method without even suspecting that they are reinventing the wheel. The organizational authority of the headquarters and the party committee is obviously insufficient here. They could borrow a lot from the adjacent regiment. However, competitions which calls for an exchange of advanced techniques between these units have still not reached noticeable proportions.

In our opinion, the lack of a fighting edge in the daily training of some units and in the competition among officers is explained to a great extent by the fact that their pledges do not bear a mobilizing nature. In a number of cases, they simply repeat last year's accomplishments. The officer's class rating is an objective indicator of his personal example in mastering equipment and weapons. What are the regimental officers' achievements in this respect? Here are the data taken from headquarters documents: all of the battalion and company commanders, all the headquarters officers and over 50 percent of the platoon leaders are specialists first class; five of the platoon leaders are still specialists third class and the rest are specialists second class. In short, if it can be expressed this way, the officers' technical maximum is first class.

Here is a typical example. Except for the officers who did not quite give a successful accounting for themselves during the last evaluated tests, almost all the officers in the outstanding battalion commanded by Maj V. Vorob'yev have pledged to become outstanding specialists and specialists first and second class. For the officers in the adjacent battalion, for example, these pledges could and would mobilize them. But, in this case, they only reflect the past. Moreover, there is still room for growth in the outstanding battalion.

If we total up the officers' pledges on a regimental scale, an undesirable level of stability stands out in this case: from year to year, there is almost the same number of outstanding specialists and specialists first and second class and...not a single expert. Nothing justifies this sort of "modesty" with pledges. It is a matter of honor for an officer to set a high goal and achieve it.

As we were leaving the unit, the 1st Tank Battalion was getting ready for a night trip to the range. The wall newspapers which were published for this occasion called upon them: "An Outstanding Finish for the Winter Training!" This is a good fighting slogan. A struggle for an outstanding evaluation for each exercise during the final phase of the winter combat period of hard work--this is the most reliable way to eliminate current deficiencies and it is the most reliable path to new frontiers in combat readiness.

9001

CS0: 1801

AIR BASE GUARD SERVICE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 79 p 2

[Article by Maj Ye. Konechnyy, OIC, independent air base and technical support battalion: "Vigilance is Our Weapon: Guarding Aircraft"]

[Text] The thick drizzle increased the impenetrability of the dark night at the airfield. It was long after midnight. We intentionally selected the time just before dawn to check the vigilance of the sentries guarding the aircraft. But, in spite of the bad weather, poor visibility and the wind which were drowning out our footsteps, the sentry noticed our approach in a timely manner and challenged us as required by the regulations. Pvt Mikhail Chirik was carrying out his duties in an outstanding manner.

That night, the officer of the guard and I checked several other posts where young EM were standing guard. They were also acting strictly according to the regulations and showed a high level of vigilance. Thus, we were again convinced that guard duty was faultlessly organized in the outstanding guard company commanded by Capt I. Glushkov.

Our battalion is not only assigned the responsibility for supporting the air regiment's flying program but also the responsibility for guarding the combat equipment--the missile armed aircraft which are always ready for takeoff. The personnel of one of our best companies reliably guards this equipment. Capt I. Glushkov, its commander and a communist, began his service in the guard company as an EM. He liked this difficult, responsible job and he remained on extended active duty. Later, he became an officer.

Glushkov graduated from the military political school; this established the style of his educational work to a significant extent. He was concerned that each of his subordinates should primarily have a deep awareness of the fact that standing guard

in peacetime is a combat mission. This demands from each of them strict and precise compliance with established requirements, a high level of vigilance, unyielding decisiveness and initiative. Each person here must be filled with a high sense of responsibility for reliably guarding the aircraft equipment and this also means a sense of responsibility for the combat readiness of the squadrons. In addition, the post near the aircraft also has the special feature that the sentry is charged with guarding expensive economic assets--the modern supersonic aircraft which were built by the labor of many Soviet people: scientists, designers, engineers, workers.

The company commander has good assistants: Lt V. Kolovorotnyy, his political officer, WO Ye. Myshevskiy, secretary of the party organization, and platoon leaders WO's A. Merkulov and N. Korolishin. With a sense of purpose and to a man, they are all training the servicemen to carry out sentry duties. The training begins long before the guards are posted; one could say that it begins from the very first day that the servicemen arrive in the company. While briefing them from a chart on the battalion's combat record, the commander and political officer emphasize:

"You are beginning your service in an independent airbase and technical support battalion which participated in the Great Patriotic War; from the very first days of the war, it supported crew bombing sorties against military objectives in the enemy's rear area. The unit was decorated with the Order of the Red Star."

The officers remind the servicemen of Mar SU D. F. Ustinov's--member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Minister of Defense--words to the voters of the Kuntsevskiy Electoral District to the effect that "we must maintain a high level of vigilance as long as the imperialists and other reactionary circles continue the arms race and as long as they are conducting their physical preparations for a new world war."

These conversations create high morale and a fine political edge in the servicemen. This edge is subsequently maintained during political lessons, discussions on the requirements of the oath and regulations, while studying the experience of leading EM and during socialist competition. Before the young EM take over the guard, Maj V. Smagin, the battalion political officer, meets with them and explains the contribution their vigilance will make to maintaining the air unit's superior combat readiness. He tells them about the aggressive aspirations of the imperialists and about the underhanded practices of foreign intelligence agents. At the conclusion of the discussion, the political officer reads to the servicemen their parents' mandates to them to keenly guard the borders of their beloved motherland.

It is necessary to conduct painstaking, individual work with the EM who is beginning guard duty near the aircraft with his weapon in hand. Representatives of 14 nationalities are serving in the company. Therefore, it is not easy to study the character and habits of each serviceman and to find a reliable path to his heart. The company commander and the political officer keep a sort of psychological diary; they make notes in it about their superordinates' character traits, aptitudes and avocations which they have observed. This makes it possible for them to come up with an effective teaching method and to quickly achieve their desired effect. Once, Capt V. Glushkov made the following note in his diary: "Pvt Sergey Tishin has become sullen and inattentive. He cannot be trusted with the post near the aircraft. But, can we be sure that he is not suitable for duty?"

He observed Tishin's behavior for a while and talked with him. He understood: the young EM was a little afraid of standing guard at a remote post at night. The company CO recommended that the platoon leader assign Tishin near the guard shack at first, where he would be under constant supervision. Tishin soon became braver and more attentive. He began to be trusted with the post near the aircraft and he began to successfully handle this combat mission.

The sentry must be prepared for any eventuality; he must quickly and correctly evaluate a difficult situation. This is why a briefing and solutions for tactical problems in putting out fires, repelling an assault on the post, etc. are required before the guard is changed. Within the company, these kinds of training sessions are primarily conducted in the classroom and at a mock-up of the airfield. In solving the tactical problems, the servicemen explain their actions in a particular situation in their own words. Of course, there was not enough return from these types of lessons. The problem of improving the quality of the training for guard duty was discussed at a meeting of the party bureau.

"It is necessary to equip the guard training area better," WO Ye. Myshevskiy, secretary of the party organization, suggested. The communists supported him. Soon afterwards, under the leadership of WO A. Novikov, the company handymen built mock-ups of the facilities being guarded near the barracks. Now, before changing the guard, the servicemen work out for an hour in this area: they repeat the provisions of the Regulations for Garrison and Guard Duty; they study the special features for guarding each facility; they practice procedures for changing the guard; and they practice operations for various tactical problems in as a realistic a situation as possible.

When training the guards, we try to take everything into account, even the most trifling deficiencies. And, they are all strictly accountable. When I review the post logs, I jot down each deficiency. When this material on the level of quality for standing guard is analyzed, it helps me take effective steps on time to increase vigilance, improve instruction and work on methods and organize competition.

Thus, after checking how they were pulling guard duty at night once, Capt V. Kiselev noted in the guard log that Pvt's V. Litvinov's and Sh. Nazhimidinov's actions during the tactical problems were not precise enough. Their attitude toward duty was discussed at a Komsomol meeting. Pvt's S. Kuletskov and Sh. Narzikulov, the competition leaders, were assigned to help the stragglers. But, the activists did not just leave it at that. They did an in-depth analysis of how the Komsomol members were fulfilling their socialist obligations--after all, the end of the winter training period was approaching. It turned out that several of the Komsomol members, including those named above, were not displaying a personal example in achieving their planned goals. Their comrades in arms held them strictly accountable. These comrades noticeably improved the quality of their guard duty.

The sentry has taken over the post near the aircraft. His vigilance--and this means the degree of his reliability in guarding combat equipment--depends upon how well he is honed and trained ideologically and on his inner composure and sense of purpose. The people who assign weapons to an enlisted man and entrust this responsible post to him should remember this.

9001

CSO: 1801

SUPPLY ECONOMY MEASURES IN MOTOR TRANSPORT UNIT DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 79 p 1

[Article by Engr-LtCol V. Osyki: "The Search is Successful"]

[Text] Before the trip to the range, Capt V. Volodin, the unit commander, and I analyzed the motor vehicle drivers' pledges for POL conservation. After hearing that the pledges could have been significantly greater, Capt Volodin pointed out: "After all, we are not concerned about conservation at the range where we will have to accomplish a very important mission.

"Nevertheless, let's pretend we are," I suggested to the commander.

We figured out the motor vehicles' probable routes, the optimal march route speeds and average POL consumption for each vehicle and we estimated the possible savings. The figure was impressive. During the remaining days, the unit thoroughly checked the equipment and stocked the mobile vehicle repair shops with spare parts and tools. The drivers' individual pledges for conserving POL were revised.

The missilemen received an outstanding rating at the range. The motor vehicle drivers made their contribution to this success. The competition forced many drivers to catch up with the rest. The vehicles worked like clockwork. The POL savings were reflected by a significant figure.

The campaign for conservation and economy occupies a special place in the motor vehicle drivers' socialist competition. In the transportation company commanded by Capt A. Zamulin, Pvt N. Bol'shakov saved over 700 liters of gasoline during a 7 month period and operated an additional 15 days on it. Sgt S. Belov worked an additional 10 days on the gas he saved and Pvt M. Shuyanov worked an additional 5 days. Their techniques have become available to all unit drivers.

Other units have also achieved good results; their personnel supported the initiative of the Baltic tankers and actively included it in the competition for conservation and economy.

But, there are also cases where they talked about conservation a lot but the actual results are not very high. This happens because the appeals for conservation are not supported by organizational work and thorough supervision over all the specialists' compliance with the rules for equipment operations. Improper use of motor vehicle resources and fuel are still frequently encountered.

Considering the fact that the vehicles in the majority of units actually accomplish their trips over the same routes, it would be advisable to develop standard traffic patterns. This will help organize transportation more efficiently and achieve POL savings. In addition to the standard patterns, a terrain map was made up in the transportation company commanded by Officer A. Zhurbilov. Now, when the commander sends drivers on a trip, he considers the distance and the road surface and he can precisely establish the amount of fuel used. The weather report is shown daily on an illuminated display. This helps the drivers select the optimal modes of operation for their motor vehicles with due regard for the weather.

The party teaches us to conserve and economize on the macro and micro scale. This must constantly be remembered. Unfortunately, there are cases where mismanagement is only noticed when it threatens losses of hundreds of rubles. But, the so-called "trifles" are passed over. They do not notice the lights burning everywhere on a clear day; they do not pay attention to the fact that the fuel tank is leaking. But, all of this is money and fuel. After all, large savings begin with small ones. It is not by accident that the people say: a stitch in time saves nine.

In the unit commanded by V. Polukarov, they set up duty lighting on the military post. Now, only a few street lights are turned on at night here. At first glance, this is not such a big innovation but it does provide savings.

All the servicemen in this unit are taught to use electrical power, fuel and other economic assets economically. The commander and the party and Komsomol organizations support their useful initiatives in making efficient use of materiel. And, this brings good results. During the past year, the unit has conserved many tons of coal, diesel fuel and electrical power.

Work improvement suggestions and inventions can make a large contribution to the economical use of national resources. A lot depends on the commander, on how skillfully he directs the suggestors' and inventors' efforts toward solving specific problems. For example, during the past year, 65 work improvement suggestions were implemented in the unit commanded by officer V. Polukarov; their economic effect was more than 30,000 rubles.

"We are thinking about reequipping the vehicle training area. It costs a lot to operate it. The facility should be controlled by radio," officer Polukarov shared his idea with us once.

"Will this really be cheaper?"

"A great deal cheaper," he stated confidently. "Here, look at the estimates."

The figures were convincing. This mission has now been accomplished. The modernization of the vehicle training area increased training efficiency and reliable control of the facilities. The initial expenditures were recovered with interest within a short period of time. They achieved a significant savings in resources.

This is how it is everywhere where a creative search, initiative and a sense of personal responsibility for conserving national resources are typical of the people.

9001

CSO: 1801

CRITICISMS AND COMPLAINTS: FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

Training Center Logistical Support Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Value Training Time'"]

[Text] The article by Lt Col V. Bogdanovskiy published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 10 February 1979 under the above title told of shortcomings in logistical support to classes in one of the training centers.

As the unit commander reported to the editors, the criticism was deemed proper. The article was discussed at an open party meeting of the training center. At the conference officers and warrant officers were strictly cautioned for omissions in their work by the troop firing range chief WO R. Mariyevich. Training center chief of staff Lt Col N. Levchuk was admonished for poor supervision over use of training facilities.

It was also reported in the response that the presence of faulty hoists at the troop firing range was the result of their poor repair by specialists of the district workshop. The faulty target hoists have been repaired at the present time.

Abuse of Official Position Punished

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Abusing Official Position'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article by Maj A. Yurkin, published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 6 March 1979. As the chief of the combined unit political department reported to the editors, the facts presented in the article were confirmed. Maj V. Tomin actually did use subordinates to repair his own apartment. He was given a strict reprimand for abuse of official position.

The article was discussed at a conference of combined unit political workers. Supervision has been reinforced over the training process in the units and work is being done to prevent instances where personnel are taken from classes.

Komsomol Report-Election Meeting Defects

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: Steps Taken"]

[Text] "Lack of Principle" and "But It Is Not a Personal Matter" were the titles of critical articles published on 15 and 19 December 1978.

These materials revealed serious shortcomings in the preparation and conduct of Komsomol report-election meetings aboard the destroyer "Veskiy" and in one of the units of the Pacific Fleet.

As reported to the editors by Vice Adm N. Usenko, first deputy chief of political directorate of the Navy, the political directorate of the Navy heard a report by Capt 3d Rank A. Novitskiy, assistant chief of political directorate of the Pacific Fleet for Komsomol work.

The lessons and conclusions stemming from the newspaper's critical articles were gone into with assistant chiefs of political entities for Komsomol work of the fleets and units of central subordination. Appropriate instructions were given to the political entities.

A response also has been received from the Pacific Fleet, from Vice Adm V. Sabaneyev, member of military council, chief of Fleet political directorate. He stated that the Fleet political directorate had heard accounts from the political department chief and assistant political department chief for Komsomol affairs. They were strictly admonished for an irresponsible attitude toward preparing meetings aboard the destroyer "Veskiy." The assistant political department chief for Komsomol affairs was given a strict reprimand and the political department instructor for Komsomol affairs was given a reprimand for poor supervision over preparations for the Komsomol report-election meeting aboard the destroyer "Veskiy." Fleet political entities were given necessary instructions on this matter and steps were taken to prevent similar instances in the future.

The combined unit political department heard accounts from the commander of the destroyer "Veskiy" and his political deputy. They were admonished for shortcomings in management of the Komsomol organization. The ship's political deputy was cautioned for incomplete conformity to service because of major omissions in this matter.

The ship's party meeting examined the issue "On the status and steps for improvement of party management of the Komsomol in light of demands of the 25th CPSU Congress." Specific steps were outlined for improving this work.

Fleet political directorate officers gave the ship's Komsomol committee practical help in planning Komsomol work of preparing and conducting Komsomol meetings. Lessons stemming from the incident aboard the destroyer "Veskiy" were discussed at courses of Fleet Komsomol officials.

The article "But It Is Not a Personal Matter" was discussed with officers, party members and Komsomol members of the unit and examined at a party bureau session with the participation of the Komsomol aktiv. The political department heard accounts from the unit commander, his political deputy and the party bureau secretary. Conclusions were made known to chiefs of political departments and all political workers.

Payment for TDY Made

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'The Warp'"]

[Text] The satirical article published under this title on 27 December of last year related that Lt K. Berdiyev was not paid per diem for 75 days as a result of a violation of the statute on the amount of time for being on TDY.

As Lt Gen I. Mal'tsev informed the editors, this fact was confirmed in a check. Considering the special circumstances of this case, Mar Arty P. Kuleshov gave instructions to pay Lt Berdiyev fully for TDY expenses as an exception.

Lt Col V. Volkov informed the editors that Lt Berdiyev was paid the money on 29 January of this year. By order of the senior chief, Lt Col P. Malysh was given a reprimand for violating the statute on TDY of service personnel, which infringed on an officer's legal interests.

Officer Released for Abuse of Authority

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Maj A. Semidotskiy wrote to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about serious defects in the work style and methods of Lt Col G. Rudenko, who violated the norms of party life and abused his official position. The letter was sent to the political directorate of the Navy.

As the editors were informed by deputy chief of political directorate Rear Adm I. Petrov, the facts presented in the letter were confirmed. Lt Col Rudenko was made to answer for disciplinary and party responsibility and released to the Reserve. Specific steps were taken aimed at improving indoctrinational work with unit officers.

Use of Incentives Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: "'Prelude" to a Concert'"]

[Text] That was the title of a letter to the editors from Pfc V. Soliyenko, Pfc S. Il'in, Pvt V. Kondratovich and other military construction personnel which was published on 11 March. It told of improper application of moral and material incentives for socialist competition in the military construction detachment commanded by Maj V. Fedorov.

As Col Tech Serv A. Novosadov and Col I. Dugin informed the editors, the military construction detachment commander, Maj V. Fedorov, and his political deputy, Capt G. Khvostik, were given a strict reprimand for a callous attitude toward subordinates.

Harvest Bonus Paid Late

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Comrade V. Brovkov wrote that in releasing his son, G. Brovkov, to the Reserve, the military unit did not pay the monetary bonus which he had been awarded for conscientious fulfillment of quotas in taking in the harvest. The fact was confirmed by a check. Maj Gen M. Tarakanov, deputy chief of political directorate of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, informed the editors that the bonus had been paid to former serviceman G. Brovkov.

Garrison Services Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Comrades Il'yasova, Aslanova, Illarionova and others reported that housing was not being repaired on the military post, the assortment of food products was poor in the store and mass cultural work was poor. The letter was sent to the political directorate of Transcaucasus Military District, which informed us that the facts had been confirmed and steps taken. Capital repairs had been made on the electric power line and repair of roofs of residences was under way. The post's supply of food products had been smoothed out. The political department developed a plan for mass cultural activities.

Deficiencies in Personal Services Corrected

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Military construction personnel V. Kolesen', V. Kazantsev, P. Revko and others wrote about shortcomings in medical services, bathing and laundry services, and personnel food and clothing support.

The facts were confirmed in a check and guilty parties punished. Deputy unit commander Capt I. Kryuchkov was cautioned for incomplete conformity to service and Lt Col N. Tret'yakov was given a strict warning for omissions in management of supply work. At the present time personnel have been fully provided with clothing allowances. Supervision over food preparation has been improved.

Child Support Payments Instituted

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Comrade O. Tkachenko, wife of a serviceman, complained about officials of the Slavyanskiy Rayon Military Commissariat, who were holding up preparation of documents for payment of child allowances. Col Gonchar, political department chief of the Krasnodarskiy Kray Military Commissariat, reported that the facts had been confirmed by a check.

The complaint was discussed at an official conference of the kray's military commissars and with officers and warrant officers of the Slavyanskiy Rayon Military Commissariat. Slavyanskiy Rayon Military Commissar Lt Col Belokobyl'skiy was given a strict warning. WO Zhitskiy, the one directly guilty of the red tape in preparing the documents, was given a reprimand. Comrade Tkachenko was paid the child allowance from the day of its birth.

Coal Provided to Invalid

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Great Patriotic War invalid S. Yalovoy was not able to get local authorities to provide him with coal for a long period of time. He wrote about this to KRSNAYA ZVEZDA.

The editors sent the letter to the executive committee of the Voroshilov-gradskaya Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, which informed us that Comrade Yalovoy had received the coal. Mezhholkhozstroy [Interkolkhoz

Construction Organization] chairman N. Glushchenko was given a strict warning for permitting the red tape.

Improper Personnel Actions Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'The Career of Petr Lukich'"]

[Text] Vice Adm V. Sabaneyev, member of military council and chief of political directorate of Red Banner Pacific Fleet, informed the editors that the facts presented in the satirical article entitled "The Career of Petr Lukich," published on 18 March of this year, had been confirmed. The newspaper's coverage was discussed in the Fleet political directorate and the Fleet aviation political department. Steps were taken to reinforce party influence over the work of personnel entities.

Engr-Col P. Postnov was given a strict reprimand, Maj A. Gladyshev was relieved of his position and given a demotion in his job, and Capt V. Dudko was cautioned for incomplete conformity to service by order of the Fleet commander for abuse of official position and official forgeries involving the illegal call-up of WO (Res) P. Nikitishin for military service and restoring his continuous term of service. Party members Gladyshev and Dudko also were punished in party channels. They were given reprimands with an entry in their records. A party investigation is being conducted with regard to Party Member Postnov.

Improper Work with Young Officers Examined

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 79 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Awaiting a Thaw'"]

[Text] Maj V. Semenov's article published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA under this title on 28 January of this year criticized party members who were managing a military construction detachment for serious shortcomings in the work style and methods with young officers. Col I. Varlamov, chief of personnel department of the political directorate of military construction units, responded to the newspaper's presentation.

The criticism was deemed proper. The political department heard an account by unit commander Capt A. Ostapchuk. He was shown the need for improving indoctrination of young officers, for regulating their work day and for creating a healthy moral atmosphere in the collective. Political deputy Maj V. Radkevich and chief of staff Capt V. Ovcharenko were given a strict warning for the callous, crude attitude toward Lt Yu. Razzhivin. Komsomol member WO Ye. Shkuratov was given a strict reprimand with an entry in his record for systematic violation of demands of regulations and military ethics.

The newspaper's article was discussed with political workers, at a meeting of staff officers, and in military construction detachments.

LETTERS FROM READERS: FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

School Application Rejected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] "Dear Editor!

"This year I decided to enroll in a military school. As of the beginning of the entrance examinations my time of service as a warrant officer would have been more than 2 years. As required, I submitted an application prior to 1 December of last year. But I was rejected because, I was told, I had to have served as a warrant officer for not less than 3 years. But on 18 January KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published the admission requirements for military training institutions, which stated that warrant officers have the right to begin training after 2 years of service at a warrant officer post. Once again I appealed to our unit's personnel office for an explanation, but the answer I got was that the office had no paperwork confirming this right, and that the newspaper may have made a mistake."

Warrant Officer
G. Khaliullin,
Northern Group of Forces

To begin with, the newspaper did not make a mistake. Rejection of Warrant Officer Khaliullin's application for military school was illegal. Why? The editorial board hopes to receive a complete answer to this question from the commander of the unit in which the author of this letter is presently serving.

Unfortunately Warrant Officer Khaliullin's case is not unusual. The editorial board also received other letters reporting denial of permission, without adequate grounds, to enroll in military training institutions.

Private A. Galstyan, who serves in the Moscow Military District, found himself in a complex situation. On learning the soldier had decided to enroll in a military school in a branch of troops different from that of his unit, his supervisors began to fabricate various obstacles in his way. In

particular they gave the excuse that he was still serving his first year and that it was too early for him to apply for enrollment. In fact, however, according to the rules of admission to military training institutions, first-termers have the right to enroll in military training institutions of all arms of USSR Armed Forces, branches of troops, and services irrespective of their military specialty and time of service.

The command of one of the units of the Kiev Military District subjected servicewomen N. Dobrova and A. Abrosimova to arbitrary treatment. They had decided to enroll in correspondence courses of a certain institute. They were given the categorical answer that servicewomen do not have the right to take correspondence courses. "In response to our request to see the document stating that this was so," write Dobrova and Abrosimova, "they said: 'You can't, that's all.' Is this so?"

No, it is not. Servicewomen can go to school. And not only in correspondence courses but also in the night schools of civilian educational institutions. This is the answer the editorial board has given to the question asked by Dobrova and Abrosimova. This is the answer one finds in the same documents local headquarters possess.

Why are readers sometimes forced to appeal to the editorial board with a request to explain particular premises concerning the order of service and rights of servicemen? After all, they could and should get these answers at their own units.

The conclusion that begs itself is that some commanders and supervisors are ignorant of the content of the appropriate documents. Or, what is still worse, they know the answers but they feel that the documents are not binding.

Class-Ratings Delayed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] "Dear Editor.

"Last year many of our company's soldiers adopted the pledge of raising their class-ratings. We passed our final examinations for advancement. However, we still have not been awarded the appropriate class-ratings. As a result, at the fault of someone else our pledges aren't worth the paper they're printed on. We hope this will not happen again this year."

Sergeant V. Maleykovich

Our correspondent visited Sergeant V. Maleykovich's unit. Here is what he reports:

"Yes, sergeants V. Maleykovich, N. Pilipchuk, R. Kamaliyev and many other soldiers in the unit have now been waiting almost half a year for orders awarding the appropriate class-ratings to them. Why has this happened? The ratings commission which gave the class-ratings test submitted its paperwork for approval to higher headquarters back on 13 November of last year. There, as was explained by Lieutenant Colonel A. Sklyaruk, a staff officer to whom the tank crewmen recently appealed, the paperwork was mis-filed, and it had to be filled out all over again. In a word, the class-ratings problems which occurred the year before had repeated themselves: Last year, soldiers had to wait 3 months for approval of a document which idled on the desk of an officer who was assigned to a new place of service.

"Well, things were straightened out. Duplicate paperwork was filled out and sent to the required address by special delivery. Next day orders awarding the class-ratings were signed. However, we cannot consider the issue to be fully resolved. I would hope that the actions of those responsible for the red tape in an important matter such as this get the punishment they deserve."

Major V. Zhitarenko,
Correspondent, Group of Soviet Forces
in Germany

Inefficiency on Military Sovkhoz Criticized

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] Colonel M. Petrushin, Correspondent--A group of laborers and office workers of one of the military sovkhozes of the Red Banner Ural Military District sent a letter to the editor reporting that far from all of the grain yield was harvested last year at the farm. The letter also discussed shortcomings in the way repair of agricultural equipment was organized, and it criticized the party organization and its secretary.

The editorial board sent the letter to the district's political directorate. A considerable amount of time has passed since then. One would believe that the situation would have changed for the better. But the editorial board received another letter from the same sovkhoz. It pointed out shortcomings that were reported in the first letter. Thus a trip to the sovkhoz was made necessary.

"Steps have been taken," declared political department officer A. Barsukov, who was responsible for checking up on the complaints in the letter. "The sovkhoz director has been dismissed from his post. A new one has taken his place."

That was quite a monumental step. But what has been done specifically to correct the shortcomings noted in the letter?

So there I was, riding to the sovkhos on this morning in early March, together with Lieutenant Colonel M. Duntsov, an officer of the food supply service. Haycocks of unthreshed barley fleeting by our window confirmed one of the facts in the letter. We still hoped, however, that the appropriate conclusions were made and that equipment was being prepared as necessary for the field work.

A visit to the machine and tractor shop scattered this hope to the winds. Seeding machines, harrows, and other machinery lay idle about the squat building. For practical purposes repairs had not even been started. Moreover, how much can you really do in a shop that is unheated? Back in December, during a severe frost, the heating system was put out of commission due to carelessness, and now the people have to work in difficult conditions.

In one of the rooms of the shop, the walls of which were blackened by a winter's worth of fires, specialists warmed themselves beside an iron stove. I asked them:

"Will you be able to prepare the equipment in time for the planting campaign?"

The workers searched each other with their eyes: Who was to say what? Finally turner A. Shirov said:

"We have no cutting tools, there is nothing to work the parts with."

"We do not have any spare parts for the tractors," others added.

The anxiety of the mechanics is understandable. In spring their troubles will be greater than usual. The fields had not been plowed last fall. This would have to be done now in addition to all of the other chores. This means that the load on the tractors will increase as well. Thus it was especially important to repair them properly and well. Do our friends who were responsible for making inquiries concerning the letter understand this? We would assume that they do. However, it is saddening that they essentially did nothing to put equipment repair in order. Moreover the real reason why the harvest failed, stated in the letter, was left unheeded. Now they all cite the same excuse:

"The weather let us down."

True, the weather made the work more difficult. Nevertheless the main reason was that the sovkhos began harvesting the cereal crops 2 weeks later than other farms of the same rayon. And namely due to the failure to prepare the equipment.

We cannot, of course, bring back the past. But the officers making the inspection should have given some thought to the forthcoming spring and taken steps to prevent the same thing from happening again. But unfortunately the same thing is happening again.

Nor did the political department attach due significance to the critical remarks addressed to the sovkhos party organization and its secretary, Comrade I. Spiridonov.

To put it mildly, the state of affairs in this party organization causes serious concern. It has lost its ability to lead, and it has in fact abdicated its responsibility for solving production problems. Unfortunately, communists are not as active as they should be. There was no constructive discussion even at a meeting devoted to preparations for the harvest. Communists sat silently, the secretary explained, because no one listened to them and because they did not want to suffer the consequences of making critical remarks. The former director made all the decisions alone. I. Spiridonov once tried to discuss the director's arbitrariness and roughness with him, but the director cut him short.

Spiridonov did not have it in him to confront the director any more. And gradually he strayed more and more away from his responsibility of leading the party organization. Somehow this went unnoticed in the political department. And now the members try to assure us that someone cares about the organization, that it is getting the help it needs.

"Officers of our political department often visit the sovkhos and give lectures," said the chief of the political department. Recently that Comrade Barsukov discussed the situation with Spiridonov twice.

Perhaps this is so. But the effectiveness of management is not rated by the number of visits. What came of these visits, what was their essence? It would be very easy to give a lecture, leave some general instructions for the secretary, and come right back. But perhaps what we should do--more than that, what we must do!--is delve deeply into today's production problems, study the mood of the laborers and office workers, learn what troubles them, and analyze the causes hindering the farm's development. In other words we must help in word and in deed. "More attention to the needs and opinions of people. More direct, interested communication with the masses. This is the way the party wants it," said L. I. Brezhnev in his speech at an election meeting of the Baumanskiy Election District of Moscow.

The state of affairs in the sovkhos and the quality of the party organization's activity persuade us that the attention devoted to this collective by the political department is far from adequate. The same can be said of officers of the district's food supply service. This is why, I think, laxity has become possible in the military sovkhos, as a result of which its profitability has decreased continuously in the last two and a half years, dropping down to the zero mark.

Junior Officer Promotions Delayed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] "Dear Editor!

"In 1972 I graduated from the Kazan' Higher Tank Command Red Banner School imeni Prezidium Verkhovnogo Soveta Tatarskoy ASSR, and since that time I have been serving in a training subunit as a tank platoon commander. It is here that I learned the job of a commander and was promoted to Senior Lieutenant, and it is here that I was accepted into the party.

"On 16 December 1978 I was to receive my mandatory promotion to captain, at which time I learned that the unit commander had not signed the promotion papers submitted by the company commander, Senior Lieutenant A. Derezhenko.

"When I asked the unit commander about this, after receiving permission to do so from the company and battalion commanders, he said: 'First take the test, and then we will decide; meanwhile my assistants will interview you'.

"I visited all of the officials I had been ordered to see, and then I went to the unit commander. He asked me a few questions about the regulations, about the organization of various subunits, he asked me if I was aware of my responsibilities, but something in my answers apparently failed to satisfy him, because he never did sign the necessary papers.

"Please tell me, if most officers take a test or an examination before receiving a regular promotion?"

Senior Lieutenant
A. Shuvalov

The editorial board asked Lieutenant Colonel A. Polyakov, the permanent correspondent for the North Caucasus Military District, to check out the facts in this letter. This is what he reported:

"Senior Lieutenant A. Shuvalov is a specialist 1st class. His platoon has done outstanding work in two successive training periods. Considering this, company commander Senior Lieutenant Derezhenko wrote a performance report and attached a petition for promotion, and battalion commander Major V. Pukalov signed it. However, this document was soon returned bearing the unit commander's resolution: 'Make an effort to evaluate this officer correctly.' The commander addressed another resolution to his assistants: 'Interview and study him.' And he meant 'study' the platoon commander. Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov ended up visiting all of the unit commander's assistants.

"In his talk with me the unit commander confirmed that officers are not regularly instructed to take tests or examination before being promoted. But at the same time he did not deny the fact that his assistants and he personally interview some of the applicants and that these interviews could be interpreted as examinations of a sort.

"He said in regard to Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov that this officer was unworthy of promotion due to certain work and moral qualities of his. However, when I asked him to single out the officer's concrete shortcomings the commander changed his story, explaining his position by citing Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov's lack of initiative. Precisely what this meant, I was not able to ascertain. The unit commander intends, in his words, to wait another 3 months, feeling that for some reason this is precisely how much time would have to pass before Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov would become more active in his work.

"This story does have a happy ending. Soon after returning from the unit I learned that Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov received his regular promotion. But it cannot be said that this is an unusual case. The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents' office has received indications that officers are being subjected to testing before promotion in other of the district's units as well."

From the Editor: The editorial board has received such letters from other readers. Recently in particular, a letter from the Kiev Military District reported that tests are regularly given prior to promotions in a certain unit. The editorial board asked Lieutenant General O. Kupriyanov, chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Personnel Directorate, to state his opinion on this issue:

"Ranks are awarded in accordance with the requirements of the USSR Armed Forces Officer Service Regulations. According to these regulations officers are promoted to the next highest rank after receiving a favorable performance report, if the new rank corresponds to that required by the official post held, and when an established time of service in the previous rank lapses.

"Officers are submitted for regular promotion by their immediate supervisors in the chain of command. As obvious from the letter, this order was not violated in this case.

"As far as the reports and examinations referred to by Senior Lieutenant A. Shuvalov in his letter are concerned, they are not foreseen by any documents. There are no grounds for them. If an officer exhibits significant shortcomings in his service and personal behavior, the promotion is postponed until the shortcomings are corrected. The decision for such postponement is made by the direct supervisor in the name of the regiment commander or a person of equal or higher rank. In this case the grounds for such a decision are explained to the officer. Concreteness and clarity are important here. Failure to satisfy these requirements was one of the reasons Senior Lieutenant Shuvalov was baffled. The fact that the unit commander had to reexamine his previous decision and resubmit the officer's

promotion application can be interpreted as evidence of the groundlessness of his initial actions.

"Promotion is a great event in the life of an officer, and its purpose is to stimulate greater activity and diligence in service. There is fundamental significance to strict compliance with all rules established in this connection."

Misuse of Equipment Criticized

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] Major A. Shesternev, Correspondent--Lieutenant Colonel O. Makhmudov is known by almost every officer in the division. He has served in it for more than 20 years. Senior supervisors describing Lieutenant Colonel O. Makhmudov place special emphasis on his efficiency.

I must state that he made a pleasant impression on me as well: He is neat in appearance, and he is energetic. At first I even considered the notion that perhaps the letter sent to the editor from the subunit he commands was totally groundless. The letter said in particular that there were gross violations in combat equipment maintenance and operation. "On arriving at my new station," wrote company commander Captain Yu. Minayev, "I soon found that expensive equipment was being used for purposes other than that for which it was intended."

On learning the content of the letter the chief of the political department was also sincerely surprised, even exclaiming: "This couldn't be!" We began to analyze and clarify the issues touched upon in the letter. And we found that there was nothing slanderous about it.

Lieutenant Colonel O. Makhmudov responded tersely to our request to explain the reasons for such an attitude toward the equipment: "There was an official need for using the special vehicles for other purposes." What can we read between these lines? The subunit is supposed to participate in the construction and improvement of various facilities in the training center. Sometimes it happens that something must be delivered on a rush basis to the place of work. But with what transportation? The practice was to use the most available vehicle.

Use of special vehicles for other than their intended purpose became the rule here. As an example whenever a soldier must be driven somewhere an expensive vehicle-mounted station is commandeered as transportation. When firewood has to be delivered to the training center, the radar vehicle transforms into a delivery van.

"This did not have any negative effect on the special apparatus," Lieutenant Colonel O. Makhmudov tried to convince me.

That is a strange assertion. Use of special vehicles for other than their intended purpose is the grossest possible violation of the instructions and manuals. I took counsel with a number of experienced specialists on this issue. They all stated the opinion that carrying cement, bricks, and firewood in special vehicles cannot but cause premature breakdown of the expensive apparatus, which is precisely what happened in this case.

Two of the special vehicles had to be sent out for overhaul one after the other, and the equipment of a third had to be scrapped.

Unfortunately we can still encounter administrators, including in our army community, who look for the simplest way to complete just about every assignment, in total disregard of the price. You need transportation for firewood or bricks? Load them on a special vehicle if proper transportation is not right at hand. A part in the truck has broken? Replace it with one from a special vehicle. On the surface it appears that we come out ahead--at least something is done about the problem. But of course the consequences are invariably negative. The fallacy of such methods becomes especially obvious when we view them through the prism of today's requirements concerning the quality and effectiveness of our work. One of the main criteria by which we judge the effectiveness of every administrator is that of achieving a maximum positive result, not at any price but in the most sensible manner, with minimum outlays of manpower and resources.

Attempts are sometimes made to gloss over such cases with a very seductive excuse--official necessity. And as soon it is deemed to be a necessity, and an official one at that, all resources are good and everything will turn out alright.

"Units and parts were removed many times from one special vehicle in response to instructions from Lieutenant Colonel Makhmudov," wrote Captain Yu. Minayev in his letter. As a result the cannibalized vehicle had to be sent out for overhaul.

I do not think there is any need to belabor the wrongness of such thinking. It cannot be justified by any sort of official necessity. We found out later that such actions were usually associated with various sorts of housekeeping needs, with construction. And it is not so much the fault of the workers themselves as it is of officials whose job it is to see that transportation is provided promptly when needed and that it is maintained in operable condition.

The task in one incident was to erect an observation tower in the training center, but not enough of some materials were allocated while others were completely unavailable. And so in the evening Captain Yu. Minayev was ordered to deliver the needed quantity of cement and asphalt to the construction site by morning. He took the wheel of a special vehicle and drove a group of soldiers to one of the neighboring enterprises. There he had to requisition the necessary materials, resorting to methods which, speaking frankly, fall beyond the limits of our military customs, traditions,

and morality. One involuntarily ponders: Are the losses caused by such methods not a little too great? And not just material losses. Such work methods do doubtless harm to the task of educating the people to behave properly. What we get in the end is that Lieutenant Colonel Makhmudov pays lip service to strict order and organization in all areas, cancelling out all of his own noble efforts by his practical actions, by his adherence to the "at any price" method. After all, we know that nothing disillusiones people more than a gap between word and deed, than various sorts of violations of the regulations.

As was noted earlier, this subunit is not bad. But its results in combat and political training and in the socialist competition could have been doubtlessly higher, had these shortcomings not existed. As an example Lieutenant R. Porada stated that carelessness in operation of special vehicles puzzles the officers and makes them unhappy, which reduces their effort in service.

An organic relationship between housekeeping and educational work is the most important prerequisite for success in the activity of every administrator. The party demands that all administrators constantly think about the educational consequences of the economic and administrative decisions they make. This party requirement pertains fully to military personnel. Our combined arms manuals are permeated throughout by these thoughts. And it is very important to fulfill these requirements unfailingly. This is the dependable way to create a healthy moral atmosphere in the collective and attain stable successes in combat and political training.

Recreational Program Shortcomings Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 79 p 4

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel O. Vikhrev, Correspondent--"Dear Editor! We are soldier-builders of one of the subunits of the Kiev Military District. During the day we labor at the construction sites, and in the evening we suffer from forced idleness: No recreation is provided for us here, including sports training and competitions. But meanwhile the subunit contains 1st-rank sportsmen, and even a master of sports candidate. We have asked company commander Major A. Yashchenko several times to organize mass sports, but the matter has never gone beyond promises at his end. Please come and help us."

On acquainting himself with the contents of the letter sent to the editorial board of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and signed by the subunit's Komsomol organization secretary Junior Sergeant S. Tolstykh and by privates V. Danilov and G. Abdullin, company commander Major A. Yashchenko did not make any excuses. "What can I say," he said, "everything or, more accurately, almost all they say is true. I was given the command of this subunit relatively recently. The company production indices were not the best, and even the state of discipline leaved something to be desired. How can I think about sports in such a situation?"

Major A. Yashchenko's desire to first raise the production indices of the soldier-builders and improve discipline is fully understandable. But did he really have to neglect mass sports? It is commonly known that regular sports training not only tempers the soldiers physically but also provides an effective means for unifying the military collective, strengthening discipline, and raising labor productivity.

Before, there were several subunits at this post. But last year they were redeployed together with the unit headquarters closer to other construction sites, "commandeering" everything, even the simple athletic gear. Just the one company was left behind, and it found itself alone in the full sense of the word: Because they were located so far away, the senior chiefs were not spoiling the company with attention and concern. During the winter, mold developed on the walls of the boarded-up barracks and club--spacious buildings that were fully suited for such pursuits as boxing, the horizontal bar, wrestling, and table tennis. The section supervisors would not have had to beg for help: Master of sports candidate Private V. Kechechyan and 1st-rank sportsmen privates V. Danilov and I. Achilov would have readily taken on the job of training their comrades.

The soldier-builders, particularly Komsomol organization secretary Junior Sergeant S. Tolstykh, appealed many times to Major A. Yashchenko to open the club building and permit its use. This question was raised several times in the Komsomol office. But the company commander appeased all with promises. Unfortunately even party organization secretary Warrant Officer V. Khutornoy never went beyond talk. "As soon as you organize the sections, put the building in order, and set up the gear," he had said once, "we will give you permission to train there." But, if you might permit the question, how can the building be put in order if the doors are nailed shut and all of the gear is gone?

In a word, the senior comrades were unable to comprehend the needs of the young soldiers, and they did not want to help them. It was only after this that some of the soldiers, risking censure from above, set up one of the empty rooms for boxing. They bought a leather punching bag and elastic bandages with their own money, they crafted a homemade horizontal bar, and Private V. Danilov received two pairs of boxing gloves from Chelyabinsk, where prior to joining the army he successfully defended the honor of the tractor plant in the ring. Thus it is not so difficult to understand the resentment of the sportsmen when the company commander, incensed by the "willfulness" of his subordinates, prohibited the use of the room for training.

Could it be that the unit commander was unaware of what was going on in his subunit? He was aware. Lieutenant Colonel A. Avramenko told me by telephone (the unit headquarters was in another city) that Junior Sergeant S. Tolstykh had asked him on behalf of the Komsomol members to permit the athletes to use the club building for training back in winter. The unit commander ordered Major A. Yashchenko to open the club and put it in order. "I am extremely

amazed that nothing has been done yet," Lieutenant Colonel A. Avramenko said in sincere perplexity.

We cannot but be amazed and, all the more so, perplexed that in the several months neither the commander himself nor his deputy for political affairs, Major V. Korchevskiy, could find the time to check up on the action taken on the order, or to help the soldiers with more than just words.

"If you would like to find out for yourself what Komsomol members think about all that has happened, come to our meeting," Junior Sergeant S. Tolstykh invited me. It is a great pity that Lieutenant Colonel A. Avramenko, majors V. Korchevskiy and A. Yashchenko, and Warrant Officer V. Khutornoy did not attend the meeting. They would have heard the great resentment with which the Komsomol members talked about the fact that here they were, in a large, beautiful city with its gymnasiums and stadiums, and they were being treated as if they were deaf and dumb.

It could be that after hearing this, our senior comrades might have finally turned their attention to the needs of the young soldiers and done everything to organize mass sports in the subunit in the shortest time possible.

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